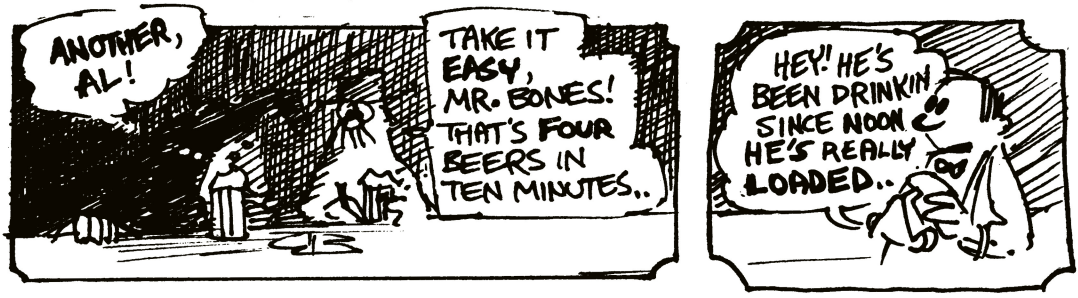
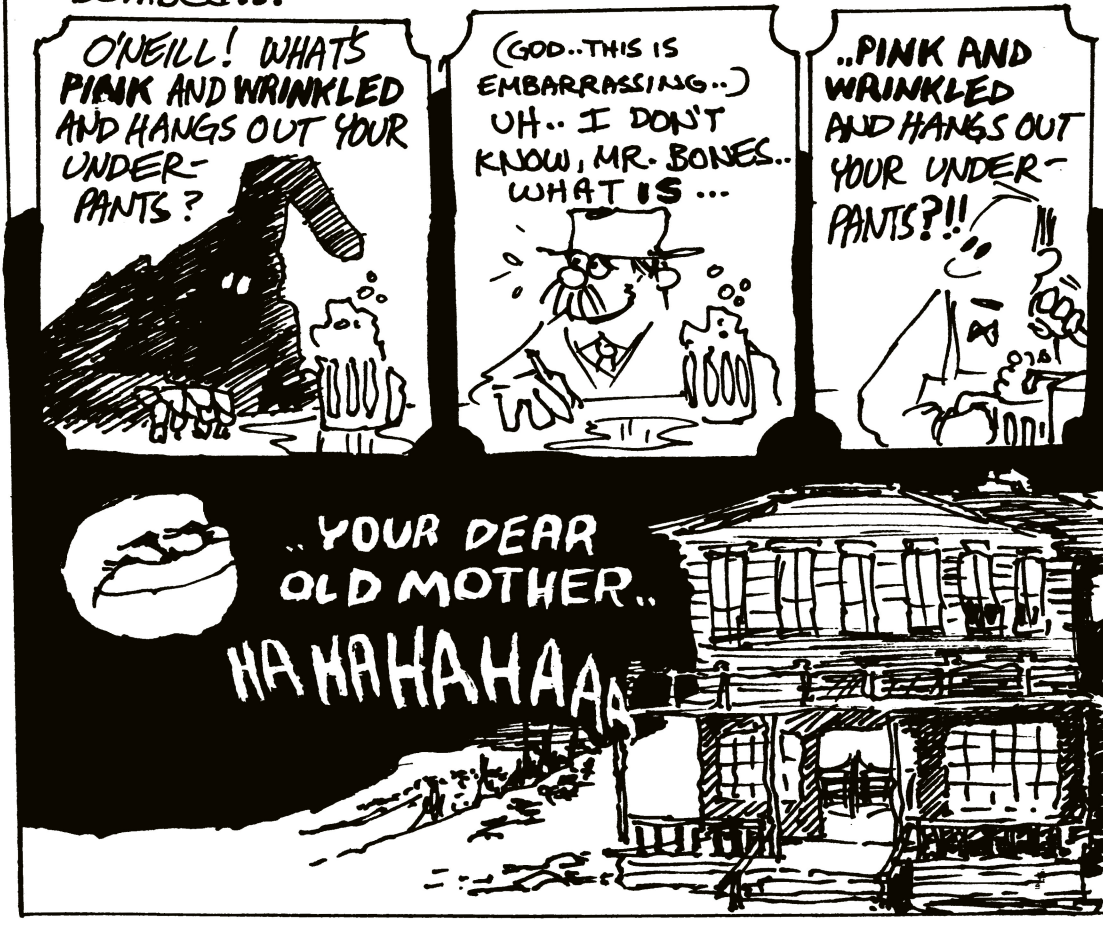
A FRIEND TO THE CHILDREN

—O'NEILL—

DEATH..being everywhere.. I'm never surprised when I see *him* in my favorite Nevada saloon..



BONES WAS SLOSHED.. no doubt about it .. if Al says you are loaded .... you are **over the line**.. and Nevada is fairly loose .. so Bones was bombed...


O'NEILL! WHAT'S **PINK** AND **WRINKLED** AND HANGS OUT YOUR UNDER-PANTS?
(GOD.. THIS IS EMBARRASSING..) UH.. I DON'T KNOW, MR. BONES.. WHAT **IS** ...
..PINK AND WRINKLED AND HANGS OUT YOUR UNDER-PANTS?!!
..YOUR DEAR OLD MOTHER..
HA HA HA HA HAA

..IN A RARE MOOD, ARE WE?
I'M A LITTLE OVERWORKED..
EVERYTIME I TURN AROUND, SOME DAMN JACKASS HAS STARTED ANOTHER WAR!! WHY? WHY NOT? PEACE IS BORING! PEACE DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING.. THERE'S NO MONEY IN IT..
EASY, MR. B..
..I WAS CREATED TO BRING AN END TO MORTAL PAIN.. AFTER A NORMAL LIFESPAN.. WAR THROWS THE ENTIRE SCHEDULE OUT OF BALANCE.. I'D QUIT THIS IN A MINUTE.. SUPPOSE I DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR A WAR.. WHO WOULD WIN? ..NOT THE MANGLED BABIES.. I HAVE TO SHOW.. I CAN'T LEAVE THEM LIKE THAT..
I NEED AN ASSISTANT..
YOU NEED ANOTHER DRINK...
YOU'RE BABBLING..
..HOW ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU WORKING? YOU SURE LOOK LIKE YOU NEED A JOB.. DO YOU LIKE TRAVEL? MEETING NEW PEOPLE? YOU PROBABLY WEAR A SIZE 44 SHROUD..
I NEED ANOTHER DRINK..
A QUICK RIDE? DEMONSTRATION? THE HORSE IS RIGHT OUTSIDE..

YOU CAN BE MY ASSISTANT, AND TAKE CARE OF ALL THE NORMAL PEACEFUL DEATHS .. THAT WILL LEAVE ME FREE TO DEAL WITH THIS SURPLUS OF ..
.. BURNING CHILDREN..
I'M THEIR ONLY FRIEND..

I THINK I NEED ANOTHER DRINK.. NOW!
AND SO DO YOU.. YOU'RE LOSING YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR..
..YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT..
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD SERVE HIM.. HE'S PRETTY FULL..
..GIVE HIM A DOUBLE.. HE CAN SLEEP IT OFF IN THE BACK ROOM..
I'M THEIR ONLY FRIEND..
..Well.. we sang the night away.. I didn't take the job offer.. with this economic situation, I'll probably regret it.. Mr. Bones didn't mind too much.. how could he..? we were drinking boilermakers.. we probably disgraced ourselves... Still.. if there was any Hope hiding in those bottles, we found it.. I remember the time Christ turned the water into wine because He needed a drink so maybe we weren't that far over the line.. considerin'..
LET'S NOT HAVE A SNIFFLE.. LET'S HAVE A BLOODY GOOD CRY..
ALWAYS REMEMBER THE LONGER YOU LIVE THE SOONER YOU BLOODY WELL DIE..
NOW I NEED A SHOT..
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